United Nations A/63/124

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 97 of the preliminary list*

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 62/59 entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, to prepare a report on the efforts of States that have ratified the Treaty towards its universalization and possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that so request it and to submit such a report to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. Information on the subject provided by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization is contained in the annex.

* A/63/50.

08-42157 (E) 280708

Annex

Report on efforts of States towards the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[a]

June 2007-May 2008

State	*Date period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
1. Bilateral level			
1 (a) Activities relating to Annex 2 States			
Australia	June 2007-May 2008	In relation to the remaining Annex 2 States, Australia continued to conduct outreach activities in order to promote the Treaty and encourage its ratification by China, Egypt, Indonesia, and the United States of America	
	9 and 11-13 May 2008	Australia facilitated a visit by the Executive Secretary to Australia to meet with the Minister for Foreign Affairs so as to discuss how best to promote the entry into force of the Treaty and to support the continued build-up of the verification regime. Australia organized media statements and press interviews and facilitated meetings between the Executive Secretary and various strategic institutes to raise awareness about the Treaty	
	June 2007-May 2008	Australia issued various press statements and media releases to congratulate States who had ratified the Treaty (including Annex 2 States) and to promote awareness for entry into force of the Treaty	

[a] The present report includes activities that have been completed (i.e. that are not ongoing or planned) and that were aimed at promoting the entry into force of the Treaty.

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
Austria	September 2007-May 2008	In its current functions as co-Chair of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty ("Article XIV conference"), Austria is engaged actively in promoting ratification of the Treaty by those Annex 2 States that have not yet ratified it	
Bulgaria	June 2007-May 2008	In its bilateral contacts with all Annex 2 States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, Bulgaria has urged them to do so without further delay, stressing the importance of the early entry into force of the Treaty	
France	June 2007-May 2008	France conducted regular discussions with Annex 2 States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty. In those discussions, France seized every opportunity to stress the importance that it attaches to entry into force of the Treaty	
	31 January 2008	Welcoming the ratification of the Treaty by Colombia,[b] France called for a prompt entry into force of the Treaty	
	21 March 2008	The President of France invited all countries, including Annex 2 States, to ratify the Treaty	
	7 April 2008	On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the ratification of the Treaty by France, France made a special appeal to the nine Annex 2 States that have not yet ratified the Treaty to do so	
Iceland	June 2007-May 2008	In bilateral meetings and public statements, Iceland encouraged those Annex 2 States that had not yet signed and/or ratified the Treaty, to do so	

[b] Colombia ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 29 January 2008.

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Morocco	June 2007-May 2008	Morocco seized every opportunity to urge all those States that had not yet signed and/or ratified the Treaty, in particular Annex 2 States, to do so, thus bridging an important gap in the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime	
Netherlands	June 2007-May 2008	The former Ambassador of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office at Vienna was appointed as the Article XIV Conference Special Representative in order to promote, on behalf of ratifying States, early entry into force of the Treaty. As a Special Representative, Ambassador Ramaker has visited and will continue to visit Annex 2 States. The activities of the Article XIV Conference Special Representative, whose term was extended to September 2009, are supported by the Netherlands, in close cooperation with the co-chairs of the Article XIV Conference (Austria and Costa Rica)	
	June 2007-May 2008	In its bilateral contacts, the Netherlands stressed to several Annex 2 States the importance of signature and ratification of the Treaty	
Poland	July 2007-May 2008	In its bilateral contacts, frequently at the ministerial level, Poland raised the issue of signature and ratification of the Treaty with India in the context of the India/United States agreement, as well as with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during the Polish Presidency of the European Union in the second half of 2007	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Peru	June 2007-May 2008	Peru continued its efforts aimed at promoting the universalization of the Treaty in relevant bilateral meetings. It underlined on several occasions the importance of the Treaty, promoted its early entry into force and, in this regard, urged Annex 2 States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so	
Qatar	June 2007-May 2008	Qatar spared no efforts to urge all States, including Annex 2 States, which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so because Qatar believes in the importance of the universalization of the Treaty for global security and in bridging the dangerous gap in the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime	
Russian Federation	June 2007-May 2008	In the framework of its bilateral contacts with those Annex 2 States which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, the Russian Federation persistently called upon them to join the Treaty as soon as possible	
Switzerland	June 2007-May 2008	Switzerland raised the importance of the early entry into force of the Treaty, with several Annex 2 States that had not yet signed and/or ratified the Treaty	
Ukraine	June 2007-May 2008	After completing its functions as Coordinator of the Eastern European Group, Ukraine continued to put constant and concerted efforts into bilateral outreach activities (including with Annex 2 States) aimed at the earliest possible entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
1. Bilateral level			
1 (b) Activities relating to non-Annex 2 States			
Australia	June 2007-May 2008	In relation to the remaining non-Annex 2 States, Australia continued to conduct outreach activities in order to promote the Treaty and to encourage its ratification by various non-Annex 2 States, including Brunei Darussalam, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Niue, Timor-Leste, and Tonga	
	June 2007-May 2008	In bilateral engagements throughout the South Pacific and the Caribbean regions, Australia continued to encourage those non-Annex 2 States that had not yet done so to ratify the Treaty	
	June 2007-May 2008	Australia issued various press statements and media releases to congratulate States that had ratified the Treaty (including non-Annex 2 States) and to promote awareness for entry into force of the Treaty	
Austria	September 2007-May 2008	In its current functions as co-Chair of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty ("Article XIV conference"), Austria is engaged actively in promoting ratification of the Treaty by those non-Annex 2 States that have not yet ratified the Treaty	
Bulgaria	June 2007-May 2008	Bulgaria seized every suitable opportunity in the framework of its regular contacts with non-Annex 2 States to promote the Treaty and its universalization	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
France	June 2007-May 2008	France conducted regular discussions with non-Annex 2 States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty. In those discussions, France seized every opportunity to stress the importance France attaches to entry into force of the Treaty	
	31 January 2008	Welcoming the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by Barbados and Malaysia,[c] France called for a prompt entry into force of the Treaty	
	21 March 2008	The President of the Republic of France invited all countries, including non-Annex 2 States, to ratify the Treaty	
Morocco	June 2007-May 2008	Morocco seized every opportunity to urge all those States which had not yet signed and/or ratified the Treaty, including non-Annex 2 States, to do so, thus bridging an important gap in the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime	
	June 2007-May 2008	Morocco provided voluntary financial contributions to enable the participation of technical experts from developing countries in official technical meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, thus strengthening the universal character of the Treaty	

[c] Barbados and Malaysia ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 14 January 2008 and 17 January 2008, respectively.

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Netherlands	June 2007-May 2008	The Article XIV Special Representative visited several non-Annex 2 States which had not yet signed and/or ratified the Treaty. The activities of the Article XIV Conference Special Representative, whose term was extended to September 2009, are supported by the Netherlands, in close cooperation with the co-Chairs of the Article XIV Conference (Austria and Costa Rica)	
	June 2007-May 2008	On several bilateral occasions (including in speeches by, and during visits of, the Minister for Foreign Affairs), the Netherlands underlined to non-Annex 2 States the importance of the Treaty and promoted its entry into force	
	June 2007-May 2008	The Netherlands provided voluntary financial contributions to enable the participation of technical experts from developing countries in official technical meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, thus strengthening the universal character of the Treaty	
Peru	June 2007-May 2008	Peru continued its efforts aimed at promoting the universalization of the Treaty in relevant bilateral meetings. It underlined the importance of the Treaty on several occasions, promoted its early entry into force and, in this regard, urged non-Annex 2 States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so	
Poland	June 2007-May 2008	In its bilateral contacts, frequently at the ministerial level, Poland raised the issue of signature and ratification of the Treaty with a number of non-Annex 2 States, including Iraq	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Qatar	June 2007-May 2008	Qatar spared no efforts to urge all non-Annex 2 States which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so because Qatar believes in the importance of the universalization of the Treaty for global security and in bridging the dangerous gap in the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime	
Russian Federation	June 2007-May 2008	In the framework of its bilateral contacts with those non-Annex 2 States which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, the Russian Federation persistently called upon them to join the Treaty as soon as possible	
Turkey	13 February 2008	Turkey provided voluntary financial contributions to enable the participation of technical experts from developing countries in official technical meetings of the Preparatory Commission	
Ukraine	June 2007-May 2008	After completing its functions as Coordinator of the Eastern European Group, Ukraine continued to put constant and concerted efforts into bilateral outreach activities (including with non-Annex 2 States) aimed at the earliest possible entry into force of the Treaty	
2. Multilateral level			
2 (a) Global			
Australia	June-September 2007	In its capacity as Coordinator of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Australia led preparations for the Conference on 17 and 18 September 2007 before handing responsibility over to Costa Rica and Austria	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
	February-May 2008	Australia, in its capacity as Chair of the "Vienna Group of Ten", conducted activities in advance of and during the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to encourage States yet to do so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty	
	13-18 April 2008	Australia, together with Japan and Zambia, called for a resolution promoting the entry into force of the Treaty at the 118th Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Cape Town, South Africa. Australia, together with Zambia, agreed to act as co-rapporteurs in drafting the proposed resolution	
	17 April 2008	Australia sent a Parliamentary delegation led by the President of the Australian Senate to meet with the Executive Secretary in Vienna to discuss how best to promote the entry into force of the Treaty and continue the development of the verification regime	
	June 2007-May 2008	Australia continued to place a priority on the establishment of the Treaty verification regime and played a leading role among Member States in contributing resources, equipment and expertise to develop the regime. Australia also continued to lobby for a programme-driven budget to ensure that the Provisional Technical Secretariat is given the necessary political and financial support to complete its mandate	
	May 2008	Australia provided a voluntary financial contribution to support the international scientific study on the verification capabilities of the Treaty verification regime	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
Austria	September 2007-May 2008	In its current functions as co-Chair of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty ("Article XIV conference"), Austria is engaged actively in promoting ratification of the Treaty in all multilateral forums	
Bulgaria	5 December 2007	Bulgaria co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 62/59,[d] entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-second session	
France	June 2007-May 2008	In relevant multilateral forums (e.g. the United Nations, the Conference on Disarmament, the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) France seized every opportunity to promote entry into force of the Treaty	
	17-18 September 2007	France played an active role in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in Vienna	
	28 April 2008	France organized, in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), a seminar on the "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the fissile material cut-off treaty: highways to disarmament", to discuss the potential contribution of both instruments to nuclear disarmament	
Jordan	June 2007-May 2008	Jordan stressed, on all relevant international occasions, the importance of achieving universality of the Treaty	

[d] Four abstentions (Colombia, India, Mauritius and Syrian Arab Republic) and one vote against (United States of America).

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Morocco	17-18 September 2007	At the 2007 Article XIV Conference, Morocco reiterated its confidence in multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, and called on those States that have yet to sign and/or ratify the Treaty (in particular Annex 2 States) to do so in order to appease one of the major concerns of the international community	
	5 December 2007	Morocco voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 62/59, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-second session	
	29 April-9 May 2008	In its statement at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva, Morocco recalled the commitment made by the international community in 1995 and 2000 in favour of the entry into force and the universalization of the Treaty	
	June 2007-May 2008	Furthermore, Morocco regularly participated in all meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and its subsidiary organs, as well as in all consultations aimed at promoting the Treaty and its entry into force	
	June 2007-May 2008	In relevant multilateral forums, Morocco seized every opportunity to remind those States which had not yet ratified the Treaty, to do without further delay	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Netherlands	June 2007-May 2008	The Netherlands underlined the importance of early entry into force of the Treaty on many occasions, including interventions at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2008	
Peru	June 2007-May 2008	Peru continued its efforts aimed at promoting the universalization of the Treaty through public statements and joint declarations in relevant international forums. Peru underlined on several multilateral occasions the importance of the Treaty, promoted its early entry into force and, in this regard, urged States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so	
Poland	17-18 September 2007	Poland participated in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in Vienna	
	5 December 2007	Poland co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 62/59, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-second session	
	July 2007-May 2008	Poland fully supported European Union statements at United Nations meetings calling for entry into force and universalization of the Treaty, including at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament and at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference held from 28 April to 9 May 2008	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Qatar	June 2007-May 2008	Qatar spared no efforts in multilateral forums to urge all States which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so because Qatar believes in the importance of the universalization of the Treaty for global security, and in bridging the dangerous gap in the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime	
Republic of Korea	17-18 September 2007	The Republic of Korea participated in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in Vienna, and urged those Annex 2 States which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so without delay. In addition, the Republic of Korea expressed its opinion that the nuclear test announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in October 2006 was a wake-up call for the early entry into force of the Treaty and that it was thus expecting that the success of the six-party Talks would generate a real momentum for the long-awaited entry into force of the Treaty	
	3-5 December 2007	The Republic of Korea organized the sixth Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, held in Seoul, at which participants discussed possible options for revitalizing the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime and reaffirmed the need to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty	
	5 December 2007	The Republic of Korea voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 62/59, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-second session	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
	30 April 2008	In its statement at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2008, the Republic of Korea welcomed the ratification of the Treaty by Colombia and Malaysia and strongly called upon those States that had not yet ratified the Treaty to do so without further delay. The Republic of Korea also stressed the importance of maintaining the moratorium on nuclear testing until the entry into force of the Treaty	
Russian Federation	17-18 September 2007	The Russian Federation participated in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in Vienna, and supported the adoption of the Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Treaty. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Serguey V. Lavrov, sent a special address to the participants at the Conference. Currently, the Russian Federation participates in the practical implementation of the action plan to promote the entry into force of the Treaty agreed at the Conference	
	5 December 2007	The Russian Federation co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 62/59, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-second session	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
	12 December 2007	The Russian Federation held consultations with the Article XIV Special Representative, Ambassador Ramaker, on the prospects for the entry into force of the Treaty and Russian efforts in this regard. The need to consistently facilitate the efforts of the international community aimed at promoting the earliest entry into force and universalization of the Treaty was mutually stressed at the meeting between the Special Representative and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation	
	June 2007-May 2008	The Russian Federation continued its efforts to actively support the Treaty at the United Nations at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held in Geneva, and in other international forums	
Switzerland	June 2007-May 2008	Switzerland stressed, in all relevant international forums, the importance of the early entry into force of the Treaty	
Turkey	17-18 September 2007	Turkey participated in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in Vienna, and associated itself with the Final Declaration adopted at the Conference	
	5 December 2007	Turkey co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 62/59, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-second session	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
	5 December 2007	Turkey co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 62/37,[e] entitled "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons", which was adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-second session	
Ukraine	June 2007-May 2008	After completing its functions as Coordinator of the Eastern European Group, Ukraine continued to put constant and concerted efforts into multilateral outreach activities aimed at the earliest possible entry into force of the Treaty	
	29 April-9 May 2008	In its statement at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held in Geneva, Ukraine reiterated its call upon all States, particularly Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay and unconditionally, and, pending its entry into force, to abide by a moratorium on nuclear testing as well as to refrain from any action contrary to the obligations and provisions of the Treaty	
2. Multilateral level			
2 (b) Regional			
Australia	8-9 May 2008	Australia supported the regional workshop on international cooperation for States from the Pacific, organized by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in cooperation with the Government of Samoa, by sending an expert to the workshop on Samoa to make a presentation on the verification regime and its capabilities	

[e] Nine abstentions (Bhutan, China, Cuba, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Myanmar, Nicaragua and Pakistan) and three votes against (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India and United States of America).

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Austria	June 2006-May 2007	Austria sought to contribute to the universalization of the Treaty by co-financing and taking part in regional workshops on the subject	
Bulgaria	June 2007-May 2008	Within the framework of the European Union, Bulgaria supported all démarches and initiatives to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty as a key instrument for ensuring global peace and security	
Belgium	June 2007-May 2008	Within the framework of the European Union, Belgium supported all démarches and initiatives to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty	
France	June 2007-May 2008	Within the framework of the European Union, France supported all initiatives aimed at promoting entry into force of the Treaty. These included démarches carried out by France on behalf of the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union, in Malaysia.	
Jordan	June 2007-May 2008	Jordan called, at relevant occasions, upon States in the Middle East that had not yet signed and/or ratified the Treaty to do so	
Morocco	June 2007-May 2008	In relevant regional forums, Morocco seized every opportunity to remind those States which had not yet ratified the Treaty to do without further delay	
Netherlands	June 2007-May 2008	The Netherlands contributed to the European Union Joint Action in support for the activities of the Preparatory Commission. The Joint Action focused on the verification system, including technical assistance to States signatories in Africa to fully participate in, and contribute to, the implementation of the Treaty verification system	

State	*Date period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Peru	June 2007-May 2008	Peru continued its efforts aimed at promoting the universalization of the Treaty through public statements and joint declarations in relevant international forums. Peru underlined at several multilateral events the importance of the Treaty, promoted its early entry into force and, in this regard, urged States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so	

United Nations A/63/125

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 115 of the preliminary list*
Strengthening of the United Nations system

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/257 on strengthening the capacity of the Organization to advance the disarmament agenda

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–4	2
II.	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/257	5–49	2
III.	Conclusions	50–59	11

* A/63/50.

08-42165 (E) 310708

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/257 on strengthening the capacity of the Organization to advance the disarmament agenda, the General Assembly affirmed its support for the establishment of an Office for Disarmament Affairs, while maintaining the budgetary autonomy and integrity of the existing structures and functions of the then Department for Disarmament Affairs, and the appointment of a High Representative as the head of the Office for Disarmament Affairs at the rank of Under-Secretary-General.

2. Further to paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the financial, administrative and budgetary implications arising from the appointment of the High Representative and the implementation of the mandates assigned to the Office for Disarmament Affairs (A/62/643).

3. With regard to the request contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 61/257 for the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, it should be noted that the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs made two statements in the First Committee on 6 and 16 October 2007 respectively, informing the Committee of the activities of the Office.

4. In paragraph 5 of resolution 61/257, the General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration at its sixty-third session a report to review the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/257

5. The proposals made in 2007 by the Secretary-General to establish the Office for Disarmament Affairs underscored the importance he attaches to revitalizing the international disarmament agenda, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations in this area. In promoting his proposals, the Secretary-General also took into consideration Member States' expressed interest in finding ways to address the challenges in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation (see A/61/749, annex II).

6. In his vision for 2008 and beyond, the Secretary-General highlighted the need to reinvigorate the collective response to disarmament and non-proliferation by: addressing long-standing deadlocks in nuclear disarmament, stepping up efforts to combat the scourge of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons that undermine the security of individuals, countries, and regions that can least afford it; and addressing the threats that are growing fastest — those facilitated by the revolution in the life sciences. The Secretary-General also stressed the need to follow up on the decision of world leaders in 2005 to promote biotechnology benefits to developing countries while mitigating the risks of misuse.

Advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and the civil society

7. The commitment of the Secretary-General to disarmament and non-proliferation and the promotion and support to multilateral efforts to strengthen the implementation of existing multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms limitation agreements, as well as to encourage new inclusive, complementary and mutually reinforcing initiatives had been communicated consistently, including by incorporating these issues more systematically into the Secretary-General's speeches and statements.

8. To that end, the Secretary-General played a vital role in building and activating support in the above-mentioned areas. He attended and addressed the inaugural meeting of the 2008 session of the Conference on Disarmament, calling upon members to move forward by agreeing to the proposal of the six presidents for 2007 for negotiations to begin on a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and to undertake substantive discussions on other core issues: nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, and preventing an arms race in outer space.

9. The Secretary-General called upon foreign ministers and other political leaders to participate in the Conference on Disarmament in order to encourage a return to productive work, stressing that top-level political leadership and cooperation is needed to forge a fresh consensus on future projects. Responding to the Secretary-General's call, the Conference on Disarmament has been very well attended at the highest political level during the period covered by the report; a considerable increase over previous years. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Tunisia, the Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Administrator of the National Nuclear Safety Administration of the United States of America, all addressed the Conference in Geneva. Subsequently, during and after the high-level segment of the 2008 session in March, the Vice-President of Colombia, the European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Slovakia, as well as other high-level representatives from Japan, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine addressed the Conference.

10. In 2007 and 2008, the Secretary-General addressed the United Nations Disarmament Commission, calling upon Member States to move forward in a spirit of compromise and accommodation, underscoring that failure to advance the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda was not an option, as the consequences could jeopardize many other goals of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the security and well-being of all Member States. The Secretary-General noted that, despite a collective awareness about the risks and challenges, the world is still confronted with twin dangers: the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the excessive accumulation of conventional arms. Multilateral cooperation remains absolutely indispensable in pursuing the noble goals of disarmament and non-proliferation.

11. The establishment of the Office for Disarmament Affairs reinforces the advocacy potential of the Organization in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Under the leadership of the High Representative for Disarmament

Affairs, the Office plays an effective role and enhanced its engagement and cooperation with Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society.

12. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs participated and/or represented the Secretary-General in an increased number of conferences, meetings and seminars. Since his appointment in July 2007, he has delivered 33 addresses, as well as 5 statements and/or messages on behalf of the Secretary-General.

13. A significant number of these speeches focused on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues in response to the interest manifested by the organizers of pertinent prestigious events. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs invariably calls for full compliance with existing treaty obligations in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, verifiable and greater reductions in stockpiles of nuclear weapons, greater transparency, diminished reliance on nuclear weapons in security policies and universalization of existing norms. He also presses the need for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the negotiation and early conclusion of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices, and supports the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and their bringing into force as well as encourages the establishment of new ones.

14. Furthermore, the High Representative consistently highlights the efforts to promote multilateral norms in such fields as illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the transparency of conventional arms transfers, holdings and production, transfers of conventional arms and the regulation of missiles.

15. These efforts have complemented and fed into recent initiatives both at governmental and non-governmental levels. There is an evident resurgence of interest in and growing commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. This is a hopeful indication that the international community may be close to turning the corner and that what is needed now is a sustained effort to maintain forward momentum and translation of words into action. The United Nations can contribute to the success of these efforts and initiatives and help to build support for concrete action in advancing the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

16. An important area of activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs involves information dissemination, raising public awareness of disarmament and non-proliferation issues and maintaining close liaison with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, other research and educational institutions outside the United Nations, and with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Office continues to implement the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme. To heighten public awareness on disarmament issues, and as part of its information-sharing activities, the Office disseminates to Member States and the international community comprehensive, objective and factual information on disarmament and security matters through its website, publications and other activities.

17. In addition, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/95 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to release electronic Disarmament Updates to all Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva and to civil society at large. The Office published three *Occasional Papers* as well as *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* that are available in hard copy and electronically on the web page of the

Office. In 2008, Disarmament Study Series, No. 32, *Verification in all its Aspects, including the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification*[1] has also been released. It is noteworthy to mention that between April 2007 and April 2008, the Office for Disarmament Affairs briefed more than a thousand students from all over the world on disarmament issues.

18. As stipulated in General Assembly resolutions 59/93 and 61/73 on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, launched educational disarmament and non-proliferation web pages on the United Nations *CyberSchoolBus* site focusing on nuclear disarmament and small arms. This also responds to the recommendations made by the 2002 United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124), which called for increased disarmament and non-proliferation online content. The CD *Nobel Voices for Disarmament: 1901-2001* was issued in November 2007 and will be available as a supplementary educational tool on the United Nations *CyberSchoolBus* website. From 8 to 10 August 2007, the Office for Disarmament Affairs joined the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Public Information, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in co-sponsoring an educational symposium in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Institute on Peace Education.

19. Additionally, video messages by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs addressing specific issues, such as the Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the fortieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the landmark Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence and the World Federation of United Nations Associations initiative devoted to a nuclear-weapon-free world have been posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

20. The screening of four documentary films entitled *Hiroshima Ground Zero*, HBO's *White Light, Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*, *The Final Frontier: Explorers or Warriors* and *Angelus Bell*, all relating to nuclear and outer space issues took place in April 2007 at United Nations Headquarters for delegations of all Member States and civil society representatives. These documentaries were also shown during the session of the First Committee of the General Assembly in 2007.

21. The Office for Disarmament Affairs carried out a significant number of activities (illustrated below) in support of multilateral efforts on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, as well as in support of efforts in the field of conventional disarmament, especially with regard to major weapons systems, small arms and light weapons, landmines and cluster munitions. Through its regional centres for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, the Office has also contributed to generating a more active involvement in disarmament and non-proliferation related issues of regional and subregional stakeholders.

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.IX.5.

Promotion and support of multilateral efforts on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons

22. The Office for Disarmament Affairs actively supported the efforts of Member States in the implementation of resolutions in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects, in particular nuclear weapons, in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism.

23. The Office for Disarmament Affairs organized, conducted, serviced and/or co-sponsored some 40 events pursuant to specific mandates, emanating from the General Assembly, or in support of the Office's long-standing mandated responsibilities as well as in response to requests from Member States. These include meetings of bodies of the United Nations disarmament machinery, as well as multilateral disarmament treaty meetings (such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention), meetings of States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons) and their Protocols and meetings of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine Ban Convention).

24. As requested by parties, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to provide expert advice on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, especially in connection with the Conference on Disarmament and in the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

25. The preparatory process for the 2010 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is well under way. The first session of the Preparatory Committee adopted its agenda and laid a sound foundation for the second session, which took a number of important procedural decisions to focus its work on substantive discussions. The Office for Disarmament Affairs provided administrative and organizational arrangements for these sessions as well as extensive substantive support to the chairpersons and to States parties. The Office will provide similar support and assistance to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference.

26. The Secretary-General, in his capacity as Depositary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and at the request of the majority of ratifying States, convened the fifth Conference Facilitating the Entry Into Force, which was held in Vienna in September 2007. The Office for Disarmament Affairs, in partnership with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization provided substantive and administrative support to the Conference. It also provided support for the implementation of the measures adopted in the Final Declaration, including the promotion of the understanding of the Treaty through advocacy, universalization and outreach efforts.

27. The annual meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention was held in December 2007 with the substantive and secretariat support provided by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. As mandated by the Sixth Review Conference, an Implementation Support Unit was established in the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs to support the meetings agreed by the Conference, to assist national implementation, and to promote confidence-building measures and universal participation in the Convention. The Unit, which was fully staffed in August 2007, presented its first report during the 2007 Meeting of States Parties.

28. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/288 entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", in which Member States invited the United Nations system to develop, together with Member States and relevant international organizations, a single comprehensive database on biological incidents, the Office for Disarmament Affairs initiated in July 2007 informal consultations with governmental experts and representatives of several international organizations. The database is intended to serve as a platform for receiving detailed technical information on biological incidents worldwide to assist in preventing and combating bioterrorism and to build State capacity. In April 2008, the Office for Disarmament Affairs started the development of the software platform for the Biological Incident Database to provide a secure web-based data entry tool for reporting biological incidents. This system is already available for pilot use by interested Member States.

29. In resolution 60/288, Member States also encouraged the Secretary-General to update the roster of experts and laboratories, as well as technical guidelines and procedures, available to him for the timely and efficient investigation of alleged use of biological and chemical weapons. In response to a March 2007 request from the Office for Disarmament Affairs, a number of Member States submitted nominations exceeding 100 experts and 30 laboratories. Based on this information, the Office for Disarmament Affairs is in the process of establishing an electronic database to facilitate the timely selection of experts and laboratories in the event that a request for an investigation is made to the Secretary-General.

30. In August and November 2007, the Office for Disarmament Affairs also convened two meetings of governmental experts and representatives of a number of international organizations, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the World Health Organization. These meetings resulted in an update of the technical appendices of the 1989 Guidelines and Procedures of the Secretary-General's mechanism for the timely and efficient investigation of reports of possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons, taking into account internationally available expertise.

31. The Office for Disarmament Affairs provides substantive and logistical support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). In conjunction with and in support of the work of the Committee, the Office organized three specialized regional seminars and workshops: in Kingston (May 2007); in Amman (September 2007); and in Gaborone (November 2007), with the aim of promoting regional dialogue and cooperation and raising awareness about obligations and requirements of Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1673 (2006). These seminars/workshops were conducted by the Office using multi-donor extrabudgetary funds and enabled a total of 38 States from the

respective regions to participate in the workshops along with other States and representatives from regional, subregional and international organizations.

32. In July 2007, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, at the initiative of the Chairman of the 1540 Committee, organized a meeting to bring together States, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to facilitate information exchange on existing assistance programmes to advance the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

33. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is planning additional activities for 2008-2009 in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). This includes six regional workshops to promote capacity-building at the national and regional levels, in particular in the area of border controls.

34. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs provided administrative, organizational and substantive support to the third Panel of Governmental Experts on Missiles, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/67 to explore further ways and means to address within the United Nations the issue of missiles in all its aspects, including identifying areas where consensus can be reached.

35. In Asia and the Pacific, through its regional centre for Peace and Disarmament, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has continued to foster a regional security dialogue by co-organizing with the Government of Japan the nineteenth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, as well as the sixth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, which respectively discussed issues related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that are of particular interest and relevance to the region.

36. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, through its regional centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development, collaborated with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in joint advocacy efforts to promote of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in Latin America and the Caribbean region. As a result, the Bahamas, in 2007, and Barbados and Colombia, in 2008, ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, bringing the number of ratifications needed for the Treaty to enter into force to 35 out of the 44 requisite ratifications.

Promotion and support of disarmament efforts in the field of conventional disarmament, especially with regard to major weapons systems, small arms and light weapons, landmines and cluster munitions

37. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has continued to promote disarmament efforts in the area of conventional weapons, especially small arms and light weapons, anti-personnel mines, and cluster munitions, reflecting the increasing need to address the havoc that these weapons are inflicting on peoples' daily lives, particularly in conflict-ridden regions. The Office provided expert advice and organizational support to Member States in respect to certain conventional weapons in the fields of anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions and small arms and light weapons. In relation to small arms and light weapons, the Office was invited to

chair a number of meetings of the Geneva Process on Small Arms, a tripartite forum of Member States, international organizations and NGOs preparing for the Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in July 2008.

38. On 13 June 2007, in cooperation with the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac University, UNDP, the Project on Justice in Times of Transition, the Toledo International Centre for Peace, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the University for Peace, organized a Conference entitled "A Firm and Lasting Peace in Central America: the Pending Agenda 20 Years later" to discuss the achievements and challenges in the region which triggered a series of initiatives that enabled the region to turn the page on a long era of bitter armed conflicts and helped to open a new chapter of peace and development.

39. In its resolution 61/89 of 6 December 2007, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the feasibility, scope, and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and to submit a report on the subject to the Assembly at its sixty-second session. A total of 100 Member States and 1 regional organization submitted their views, which are contained in document A/62/278 (Parts I and II) and Adds. 1-4. The Office for Disarmament Affairs provided administrative, organizational and substantive support to the Group of Governmental Experts established to examine the feasibility, scope, and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms.

40. The Office for Disarmament Affairs also assisted the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus.

41. The Office for Disarmament Affairs operates and maintains two instruments aimed at increasing transparency in military matters which are based on separate General Assembly resolutions, namely, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which deals with international transfers of conventional weapons and the United Nations System for the Standardized Reporting of Military Expenditures, which seeks information on defence spending. Information included in these instruments is provided by Member States on a voluntary basis.

42. In the field of major conventional weapons, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to work with Member States to promote the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms as an instrument to increase transparency in the international transfer of conventional weapons. Encouraging progress was realized following the inclusion and adoption of a standardized system for reporting, on an optional basis, transfers of small arms and light weapons. The Office continued its outreach efforts for the promotion of the Register through presentations at international meetings.

43. In General Assembly resolution 62/13, Member States have agreed to the proposal of the Office for Disarmament Affairs for a review of the operation and

further development of the United Nations instrument on military expenditures. The instrument was last reviewed shortly after its establishment in 1981. The review by governmental experts (which is scheduled to begin in 2010) will examine the further development of this instrument and its progress towards universal participation by Member States.

44. In an attempt to step up efforts to combat the scourge of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including through its three regional centres, continues to organize workshops and other activities to support and promote the implementation of existing international disarmament and arms control norms at regional and subregional levels.

45. To that end, the Office, with the support of the donor community, organized a series of regional workshops aimed at promoting and assisting States in the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. The workshops, which were held in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, during the period December 2007 to June 2008, with support from the regional centres, provided participants with information on the relevance of the instrument and addressed capacity-building needs to assist in its implementation at the national level. The workshops also served as tools for initiating country-specific needs assessments and provided increased opportunities for cooperation, coordination and collaboration among States and relevant regional and subregional organizations.

46. The Office for Disarmament Affairs, through its regional centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, conducted a training project on practical disarmament measures for civil society organizations in West Africa, and a year-long pilot project in security sector reform in Togo. As secretariat of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the Office organized the twenty-sixth and the twenty-seventh Ministerial Meetings of the Committee, respectively held in Cameroon and Angola.

47. In Latin America and the Caribbean, activities focused on building the capacity of States to address firearms-related issues. Most notably, a total of 1,100 law enforcement officials from seven countries received standardized training on investigative techniques for the prevention of illicit firearms trafficking. In addition, 272 members of Parliaments, of the media, and of civil society attended training activities aiming at developing effective policy responses to threats posed by firearms trafficking and associated violence.

48. The activities carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, through its regional centres, also contribute to regional efforts to identify and revise outdated firearms legislation, and provided technical assistance for the destruction of weapons and for improved/secured stockpile management.

49. In April 2008, the Office for Disarmament Affairs prepared the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on small arms (S/2008/258), which was the subject of the Council's open debate held on 30 April. The report contains a number of new recommendations on how best the Council could contribute to combating the scourge of small arms. The Office is closely involved with the preparation for the forthcoming Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the

Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held from 14 to 18 July 2008.

III. Conclusions

50. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/257, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to implement the existing mandates derived from relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and other United Nations policymaking organs. The implementation of the mandates assigned to the Office, the objectives and the allocation of responsibilities are consistent with the approved programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (see A/62/643, para. 12). Furthermore, the reorganization of the former Department for Disarmament Affairs into the new Office for Disarmament Affairs and the appointment of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs in July 2007 did not have financial, administrative or budgetary implications and did not affect the objectives of the Office for the current biennium, as approved in the strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 (A/61/6 (Prog. 3)).

51. A Secretary-General's bulletin entitled "Organization of the Office for Disarmament Affairs" will be issued, revising the precedent bulletin on the issue. The revised bulletin, which outlines the core functions of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, is consistent with paragraph 1 of resolution 61/257 concerning the budgetary autonomy of the Office and the retention of the structures and functions of the former Department for Disarmament Affairs.

52. The activities described above demonstrate the growing tasks and demands asked of the newly established Office for Disarmament Affairs. As indicated, the implementation of resolution 61/257 did not result in any net increase in the regular budget of the Office. In contrast, additional responsibilities resulting from mandates entrusted to the Office for Disarmament Affairs, such as those related to resolution 60/288, as well as the significant increase in the number of activities organized by the Office in response to requests from Member States, required additional resources, both human and financial.

53. In light of the limited resources available through the regular budget, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has intensified its resource mobilization efforts, aimed in particular at ensuring the sustainability of the increased number of activities in the areas covered by the mandates entrusted to the Office by the General Assembly.

54. The financial stability and sustainability of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, which currently relies significantly on extrabudgetary funds particularly with regard to the activities of its three regional centres, remains a core and integral challenge to the operational capacity of the Office. Strengthening the Office for Disarmament Affairs to better support a more proactive United Nations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation will require additional resources.

55. Additional resources would contribute to strengthening the capability of the Office for Disarmament Affairs to deliver its mandates, including comprehensive monitoring and in-depth analysis of salient and emerging issues and trends, effective policy formulation, timely expert and sound advice and assistance to the Secretary-General, and effective support to Member States to facilitate negotiations and

deliberations in the various multilateral bodies, including the Conference on Disarmament, as well as under international treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Mine Ban Convention, the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, meetings of States Parties to the various Protocols and other related processes. It would also strengthen the ability of the United Nations to implement the relevant elements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Securing regular budget funding for the biennium 2010-2011 is therefore essential.

56. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to foster its regional presence through its three regional centres. It is noteworthy that the work of the Consultative Mechanism for the Reorganization of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa was successfully concluded during the period under review. In its resolution 62/216, the General Assembly supported the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa by deciding that "three posts be established and added to the structure of the Centre, and funded from the regular budget" and recommending that "the operating costs of the Regional Centre be funded from the regular budget".

57. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has been working closely with the Government of Nepal to ensure a smooth and timely relocation of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific to Kathmandu. The inauguration of the Centre, scheduled for mid-August 2008, is both timely and opportune. It will foster regional cooperation in support of disarmament and non-proliferation activities with the support (financial and human) of the countries of the region.

58. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean continues its partnerships with Member States of the region, regional and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as the donor community in implementing various projects in the field of disarmament.

59. The establishment of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the appointment of the High Representative was a vital step in the Secretary-General's effort to revitalize the disarmament agenda and to meet the increasingly heavy and complex responsibilities assigned to the Organization by Member States in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation both regarding weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons. In promoting his proposal to establish the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Secretary-General underlined the need to strengthen the institutional foundation and management mechanism of the United Nations so that it may succeed in fulfilling its central role and primary responsibility in support of Member States in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts.

United Nations A/63/126

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 July 2008
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Sixty-third session
Item 91(m) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Replies received from Governments	2
	Cuba	2
	Netherlands	4
	Panama	5
	Qatar	6
	Spain	7

* A/63/50.

08-42210 (E) 280708 280708

I. Introduction

1. On 5 December 2007, the General Assembly adopted resolution 62/27, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation". In paragraph 8 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to it at its sixty-third session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 15 February 2008, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[11 June 2008]

1. Cuba reaffirms that multilateralism is essential today, including in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and reiterates the views that it set out in the reply it conveyed, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/62, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reproduced in his report (A/62/133).

2. The complex international situation and the need for a collective response to the pressing problems besetting humanity confirm the importance of the resolution on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as a contribution to the debate and to the search for effective and lasting solutions in these areas.

3. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries plays an active part in the promotion of multilateral solutions to the issues currently facing us with regard to disarmament and arms control. At its fifteenth summit, held in Cuba in 2006, its leaders reaffirmed their positions of principle and updated guidelines for the Movement's work.

4. The United Nations, its Charter and international law continue to be essential and vital for the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security and the strengthening of international cooperation. The United Nations, with its almost universal membership and well-founded international legitimacy, and multilateralism continue to play a central role in considering the pressing problems and global challenges currently facing all States.

5. Responsibility for steering and achieving economic development and social progress worldwide and for addressing threats to international peace and security must be shared among all States and exercised multilaterally through the United Nations.

6. In recent years, humanity has witnessed the devastating effects of aggression against Iraq. The massacre of civilians, including children, women and the elderly; the displacement of millions of people; the proliferation of terror; and the

destruction of a cultural heritage of universal value are among the main consequences of what today no one doubts to be one of the greatest human tragedies. It could all have been avoided if an effort had been made to seek multilaterally agreed solutions under the aegis of the United Nations, before embarking on military adventures.

7. Multilateralism cannot be strengthened without a comprehensive, far-reaching reform of the United Nations, which continues to be the central and essential forum for tackling issues relating to international cooperation for economic development and social progress, peace and security, human rights and the rule of law, on the basis of dialogue, cooperation and consensus-building among States.

8. The purpose of reform is to make the United Nations development system a more effective and efficient means of supporting poor countries, and thereby to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, on the basis of their national development strategies, while ensuring that this reform effort promotes organizational efficiency and produces concrete results in terms of development.

9. Cuba has the honour to chair the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for the period 2006-2009 and has focused its efforts on strengthening the Movement's actions so that it can contribute more effectively to deliberations and negotiations on disarmament and arms control, among other related subjects. Cuba considers that this will help to strengthen multilateralism, taking also into account that the 118 countries that make up the Movement form the vast majority of States Members of the United Nations.

10. Positive multilateral experiences in the area of disarmament and arms control have had a significant impact and influence on international peace and security. Examples include the biological and chemical weapons conventions, which have led to firm commitments to the total elimination of such weapons of mass destruction. Unfortunately, this has not been possible in the case of nuclear weapons, owing to the adamant opposition of some nuclear Powers, chief among them the United States of America, which refuse to honour their commitments under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

11. The disarmament and arms control agreements negotiated and implemented within the multilateral framework provide a suitable mechanism for States parties to consult one another and to cooperate in solving any problems that may arise in relation to their objectives or the application of their provisions, and they allow such consultations and cooperation to be also undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter.

12. The continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament, and the application of unilateral measures by some States Members of the United Nations to solve their security problems, jeopardize international peace and security and undermine confidence in the international security system as well as the foundations of the United Nations itself.

13. The General Assembly of the United Nations, as the Organization's most representative and democratic body, must play a central role in efforts to strengthen the multilateral approach. Cuba will continue to make every possible effort towards the achievement of that goal.

Netherlands

[Original: English]
[23 June 2008]

1. At the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, the Netherlands abstained from voting on General Assembly resolution 62/27, "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

2. The Netherlands hereby wishes to reply to the request of the Office of Disarmament Affairs for the views of the Governments of the Member States on the issues addressed by the resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, and to paragraph 8 of that resolution, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

3. The principle of multilateral cooperation is an important aspect of global disarmament and non-proliferation. The Netherlands shows its commitment to this principle by continuing to develop a legally binding system of international treaties and legislation. Besides giving its full support to United Nations resolution 1540, the Netherlands participates actively in many multilateral efforts concerning disarmament and non-proliferation, such as those pursued under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

4. General Assembly resolution 62/27 contains many elements in which the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation is underlined. It stresses that the peaceful settlement of disputes, international cooperation, dialogue and confidence-building measures contribute to the creation of friendly multilateral and bilateral relations among peoples and nations. Multilateralism is reaffirmed as the core principle in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and all States are urged to participate in multilateral negotiations on arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament.

5. However, the language in which resolution 62/27 conveys this message of multilateralism is too divisive to enable it to do so credibly. The resolution addresses the actions of individual Member States in such a way that it does more harm to the cause of multilateralism than it constructively works to improve international cooperation.

6. With regard to the issue of non-compliance, this resolution suggests that States party to the relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction should consult and cooperate among themselves in cases of non-compliance and concerns about implementation. The Netherlands believes, however, that all States should join the process of multilateral deliberation and show their commitment to non-proliferation and disarmament. To turn away from international discussions regarding compliance with international rules is to turn away from the idea of multilateralism. Non-compliance with international rules is a serious issue facing the international community, especially in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. It is an issue which can best be addressed through cooperation and multilateralism. This resolution undermines that very notion.

7. General Assembly resolution 62/27, "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", rightly draws attention to the multilateral approach to disarmament and non-proliferation. Unfortunately, its effect is more divisive and undermining than it is constructive. The Netherlands therefore abstained from voting on this resolution.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[27 May 2008]

1. A number of agreements, conventions and other multilateral instruments relating to disarmament and non-proliferation are in force in the Republic of Panama. Panama has always welcomed multilateralism and promotes it as a means to regulate and control disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. In this context, the Panamanian State recognizes the need to promote the adoption, at the international level, of new multilateral mechanisms governing the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, since these matters transcend borders and represent a global problem that concerns all countries.

3. It should be emphasized that, although Panama does not produce nuclear, bacteriological or chemical weapons, the Government has taken the necessary steps at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels to combat the proliferation of such weapons and their possible acquisition by terrorist groups.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[7 April 2008]

1. Qatar is firmly committed to promoting multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and considers it an important negotiating tool in achieving a range of goals. Qatar is a party to all the relevant conventions, namely, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and is an active participant in the pertinent conferences, seminars and meetings. It is also a member of the Non-Aligned Movement. Qatar stresses that comprehensive and complete disarmament and non-proliferation are both of the greatest importance and inseparable.

2. Qatar believes that it is very important to make progress towards universal, multi-lateral, non-discriminatory and transparent armament control, non-proliferation and disarmament, with the aim of achieving comprehensive and complete disarmament under strict international supervision, thereby according international legitimacy to the relevant negotiations.

3. Qatar calls for the development of disarmament and non-proliferation strategies and hopes that the NPT Review Conference in 2010 will be successful. It would also like to see accelerated application of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[16 June 2008]

1. Both Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the European Union Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction identify the proliferation of these types of weapon and their means of delivery as a threat to international peace and security. Spain is aware of this threat and is addressing the challenge through determined use of all the available instruments and policies, giving preference to a multilateral approach.

2. Spain is committed to the system of multilateral treaties that constitute the legal and regulatory framework for combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Spanish foreign policy therefore reflects a firm commitment to the multilateral non-proliferation system and a clear aspiration to achieve the universality of the major treaties in this area.

3. In order to ensure that a disarmament and non-proliferation system functions effectively, it must be multilateral in nature and based on genuine compliance by States with their obligations. This multilateral approach, in addition to increasing the system's effectiveness, gives it important legitimacy.

4. However, if the multilateral treaty system is to remain credible and effective, compliance must be reinforced, the detection of significant violations must be improved and the enforcement of established prohibitions and norms must be strengthened, for example through the criminalization of violations committed.

5. Non-proliferation should be a cross-cutting policy that extends across the whole of foreign policy and is integrated into other policies, involving all activities and resources. Therefore, in order to make non-proliferation policy more effective, it should be integrated both into broader areas of policy and into bilateral relations.

6. The multilateral approach should also prevail in bilateral relations, so that measures are considered and put in place to improve the implementation of the instruments in force.

7. In this context, it could be very useful to establish a permanent framework for action, including dialogue with our neighbouring countries and the use of a non-proliferation clause in bilateral and regional relations.

8. The effectiveness of the international system needs to be improved; this requires more cohesive instruments, greater political commitment and more legally binding agreements. Regulations must require compliance with the obligations entered into by States and foster the promotion of rigorous and transparent verification systems that are accepted by all States. The capacity for consensus also needs to be broadened so as to establish legal frameworks conducive to the effective advancement of peace, security, cooperation and global progress. In this regard, it is vital to agree on an agenda for the Conference on Disarmament with a view to reactivating this important multilateral forum on disarmament and non-proliferation.

9. The Spanish Government believes that a responsible non-proliferation and disarmament policy requires the promotion of an effective multilateral system. To that end it will be necessary:

- To seek comprehensive political solutions that prevent, discourage or stop recourse to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or conventional weapons;
- To integrate policy on non-proliferation and disarmament into general security policy;
- To consider the possibility of including a "non-proliferation clause" in bilateral and regional relations;
- To promote the universality, defence and strengthening of international treaties, conventions, agreements and regimes;
- To strengthen the role of the United Nations Security Council;
- To promote the national implementation of international obligations;
- To improve the effectiveness of verification mechanisms through political, economic and technical support and to make them more intrusive;
- To strengthen systems of import and export control with respect to defence and dual-use materials and to increase the number of parties to such systems;
- To promote international information exchange;
- To strengthen technical assistance among States and cooperation for development;
- To promote legal and responsible trade;
- To facilitate collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations and industries that share the same objective.

10. Only an effective multilateral system can successfully tackle the threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, together with other phenomena such as international terrorism, transnational organized crime and poverty.

United Nations A/63/127

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 48 of the preliminary list*
Culture of peace

International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/89 of 17 December 2007.

Summary

The present report, prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/89, entitled "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010". It follows on from the annual progress report on the Decade, also prepared by UNESCO (see A/62/97). The report presents an overview of the activities carried out by UNESCO and other United Nations entities to promote and implement the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and contains recommendations thereon.

* A/63/50.

08-42279 (E) 050808

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace	3
	A. Action to foster a culture of peace through education	3
	B. Action to promote sustainable economic and social development	7
	C. Action to promote respect for all human rights	8
	D. Action to ensure equality between women and men	11
	E. Action to foster democratic participation	13
	F. Action to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity	13
	G. Action to support participatory communication and the free flow of information	15
	H. Action to promote international peace and security	15
III.	Role of civil society	17
IV.	Communication and networking arrangements	18
V.	Conclusions and recommendations	18

I. Introduction

1. In 2007, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) submitted its annual report on its programmes and those of other United Nations entities as regards their adherence to and implementation of the Programme of Action for the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010. In its resolution 62/89, the General Assembly commended UNESCO for recognizing the promotion of a culture of peace as the expression of its fundamental mandate, and encouraged it, as the lead agency for the Decade, to strengthen further the activities it has undertaken for promoting a culture of peace. The Assembly also requested that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to it at its sixty-third session. Following the recommendation of the General Assembly, UNESCO adopted a new mission statement at the 34th Session of its General Conference, which states that: "As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information." This mission statement captures the strategic orientation of UNESCO and drives the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (document 34 C/4). One of the five overarching objectives in this Strategy is "promoting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace". This is then translated into the strategic programme objective "demonstrating the importance of exchange and dialogue among cultures to social cohesion and reconciliation in order to develop a culture of peace", which indicates how UNESCO will pursue sectoral and/or intersectoral action to meet this challenge.

II. Implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

2. As UNESCO has been tasked with coordinating and directly implementing activities in connection with the International Decade, the present report contains an overview of activities carried out by UNESCO, with the participation of other United Nations entities, Governments and civil society actors. It also contains an overview of activities reported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC). Activities are presented in eight sections, corresponding to the eight actions defined in the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.

A. Action to foster a culture of peace through education

3. UNESCO has been working to promote quality education as a central vehicle for preparing and instilling the skills and attitudes necessary to defuse and recognize potential conflicts and to actively promote a culture of peace and non-violence, in line with the human rights perspective contained in the Dakar Education for All (EFA) Goals. In that regard, UNESCO has been supporting member States in the

revision of the content of textbooks, learning materials and curricula, taking into account formal and non-formal education, and in teacher training. It has also been providing technical assistance to countries in the application of instruments such as the 1995 Declaration and Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy. It has been assisting countries in improving and developing national legal frameworks that promote quality education, while also harmonizing and coordinating action at the country level within the framework of the UNESCO National Education Support Strategy, the Global Action Plan and through United Nations system common programming exercises. Activities have been implemented that use information and communications technologies (ICTs) as a tool for expanding access to quality education, particularly for girls and women, the excluded, the poor, the marginalized, and those with special needs in a lifelong learning perspective. Research projects have also been undertaken in collaboration with UNESCO chairs, universities and research institutes on issues related to access, success and quality education. Outstanding examples of activities to promote peace education have also been rewarded and best practices on promoting peace and human rights education, democratic citizenship and intercultural and inclusive education as well as heritage education have been disseminated through the network of UNESCO Associated Schools.

4. The organization has also been providing a platform for intellectual exchanges aimed at promoting dialogue, research, and developing norms and standards. Information-sharing has been supported through the convening of expert meetings to bring together key stakeholders to examine issues related to violence in schools, school-related gender violence, and corporal punishment. UNESCO, in close cooperation with partners such as the International Observatory on Violence in Schools, and the United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Violence Against Children, is continuing to monitor closely how the recommendations outlined in the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children (A/61/299) are being applied. Behaviour-change programmes that target schools in violence-prone communities in countries such as Jamaica are also being piloted, and are using music, drama and multimedia to promote a culture of peace and inspire positive behaviour change in youth.

5. In June 2008, UNESCO carried out an important activity pertaining to youth, which has been identified in the organization's Medium-Term Strategy as a priority group. Focusing on the theme "Youth@thecrossroads: a future without violent radicalization", this category VIII Meeting, organized with Bahrain in Manama, addressed one of the main challenges of our time. It brought together more than 100 representatives of youth groups, the media, academia, policymakers from all regions, as well as observers from some 50 Governments to engage in an unprecedented exchange of experiences and knowledge. Best-practice approaches to tackle violence and radicalization and to prevent youth from descending into extremism were also presented. The two-day conference ended with "The Manama Findings", which sets out a series of lessons and practical approaches in several key areas — foremost among them education and employment — that can be replicated in many countries, and draws on the power of media. UNESCO was urged to continue supporting the exchanges and disseminating information about the various successful initiatives and projects. A dedicated website now provides a database of all projects selected for Bahrain: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=42318&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

6. Information and communications technologies in communities and schools are also being used to promote peace education on issues related to non-violence, tolerance and mutual understanding. For example, UNESCO is employing media in dispute resolution and governance in communities in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and is working with partners to develop the first fully fledged mobile community multimedia centre that moves across Jamaica to inner-city, rural and otherwise marginalized communities. It offers a range of creative multimedia workshops to people who have never used a computer before and to those who want to increase their skills in using ICT to support their personal and community development while providing an alternative to a life of crime. Female radio reporters are being trained to help prevent violence in countries such as Bolivia and to facilitate awareness campaigns that make legal advice available and encourage victims to report on domestic violence.

7. In 2007, UNICEF launched a global initiative entitled "Getting ready for school: a child-to-child approach", aiming to provide cost-effective school-readiness interventions for children in developing countries. Through the child-to-child approach, children in school are encouraged (often with special kits) to stimulate their younger brothers and sisters at home, thereby developing early learning competencies and enhancing school readiness at the right age. A pilot has been initiated in Bangladesh, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Tajikistan and Yemen.

8. UNICEF is the lead agency and secretariat for the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), which is designed to narrow the gender gap in primary and secondary education and to ensure that by 2015, all children complete primary schooling, with girls and boys having equal access to all levels of education. Thirty-seven out of 141 countries have a formally recognized UNGEI partnership. Dynamic UNGEI regional partnerships have been providing support to country-level activities and have been in the vanguard on the production and dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned (on empowerment and gender audits of national plans). At the global level, UNGEI has been particularly articulate around the mainstreaming of gender in national education plans.

9. Through the School Fee Abolition Initiative, UNICEF initiated and supported efforts to abolish school fees in 23 countries, predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa, but also in Bangladesh, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Yemen. This was done through a major conference organized by UNICEF in June 2007 in Bamako, in collaboration with the World Bank and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa. The 23 participating countries developed proposals for a way forward, including technical and financing measures, and identifying capacity-building and research needs. The conference succeeded in deepening and strengthening the policy dialogue on the financial barriers to education access and in furthering school fee abolition within the EFA movement and the Fast-Track Initiative partnership, as a key strategy for accelerating access to education and reaching out to the excluded and marginalized.

10. In Afghanistan, considering the increasing trend of attacks on schools, an innovative strategy to address the issue was developed through the community-based schools initiative, whereby UNICEF focused its efforts in building confidence in community responsibility towards schools. One of the spin-offs of the go-back-to-school campaign in Northern Uganda was being able to increase outreach to

overaged and underaged children and to highlight the needs of children, especially girls, who cannot access secondary education. In Southern Sudan, through the Girls' Education Movement and the go-back-to-school initiative, primary school enrolment dramatically increased. A fast-track teacher training programme, piloted by UNICEF and the Government, improved the quality of the learning environment and the provision of education through a better trained teaching cadre, including in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

11. WHO has been working with countries to strengthen national capacities to prevent violence through policies and programmes that address the underlying causes and risk factors of violence and thereby reduce the frequency of new acts of violence. In August 2007, WHO began a new global mentoring programme for violence and injury prevention, known as MENTOR-VIP, which is designed to "match" a junior injury prevention practitioner with a more experienced expert, so that the former may develop specific skills through structured collaboration.

12. The WHO work in violence prevention capacity development also includes ongoing dissemination and implementation of TEACH-VIP, a modular violence and injury prevention curriculum developed by WHO and a network of global violence and injury prevention experts. This material has been requested by trainers from over 70 countries across all WHO regions, and since mid-2007 the course material was expanded to include the area of disability and rehabilitation. Successful efforts were taken in a number of countries to have the material formally integrated within public health school curricula. It has also been translated into a number of the official languages of the United Nations, and was used in regional trainings. WHO released a new tool in May 2008 to help countries to calculate the costs of violence, which provides a standardized set of recommendations to estimate the direct and indirect economic costs of interpersonal and self-directed violence.

13. UNRWA has been building awareness and capacity among its teachers, head teachers and other personnel in various fields for promoting "safe and stimulating schools" and "child-friendly schools" and eliminating corporal punishment in schools. UNRWA education staff in the Syrian Arab Republic participated in an activity on children's participation in decision-making, while head teachers of Gaza organized a conference on eliminating corporal punishment and promoting non-violence in schools. Summer camps for 250,000 children in Gaza were organized, in which interpersonal communication, teamwork, non-violent approaches to disputes and concepts of tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution were emphasized. Theatre performances on tolerance and peace were implemented for children in UNRWA schools in Jordan, Gaza and the West Bank, while musical troupes have been established in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic to promote the aesthetic values of children and to foster attitudes of love and cooperation. All UNRWA schools celebrated the International Day of Peace with activities facilitating dissemination of a culture of peace and non-violent means of communication.

14. For the fourth consecutive year, UN-LiREC and a consortium of civil society partners lead by Transparencia, were active in organizing "Pasacalles", in which children and youngsters from across Peru came together to promote a "Culture of Peace" and civic values during the National Day Festivities celebrated on 28 July 2007. This nationwide project brought together municipal authorities, school district representatives and students. UN-LiREC activities to promote peace education also

included the co-sponsoring with UNESCO and the United Nations Information Centre-Peru of the second International Peace and Development Education Workshop organized by the Peruvian Institute to Promote Quality Education in October 2007, bringing together community leaders and educators from across the region and contributing to consolidating a network of over 1,200 participants who develop and use peace and development education manuals and other curriculum-related material for children.

B. Action to promote sustainable economic and social development

15. Science and technology are critical drivers for achieving sustainable development, poverty reduction, and contributing to peace and security. UNESCO has been assisting developing countries to enhance their capacity to deal with issues pertaining to environmental sustainability, including the formulation and implementation of policies for environmental management and protection and the use of applied research to address the issues of poverty eradication, climate change, environmental deterioration and natural disasters. UNESCO has already assisted 18 Governments, predominantly in Africa but also in Asia and South-Eastern Europe, in developing national policies in science, technology and innovation. At the 2008 session of the Economic and Social Council, UNESCO hosted an event for policymakers. The scope and potential of these policies were showcased, including examples from Egypt and the United Republic of Tanzania. UNESCO has also been supporting initiatives to enhance access to and strengthen science education at all levels, including through ICTs, and to set up and further develop networks of centres of excellence in the basic and engineering sciences. An example is the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East Centre (SESAME), which was established under the auspices of UNESCO, and seeks to promote a culture of peace through intergovernmental cooperation in science, and to foster mutual understanding and a spirit of solidarity through cooperation between scientific communities in a region where international efforts are particularly important to ensure the sustainable and peaceful development of the globe. In Nigeria, UNESCO has provided support to the Government for the development of a science education kit that can be scaled nationally and replicated by other countries.

16. To address the issue of climate change, which will likely have significant economic and social consequences and impact peace, security, stability and development in many regions of the world, UNESCO has been assisting member States to build and maintain the requisite knowledge base, and to adopt measures for adapting to the impacts of climate change, contribute to the mitigation of its causes, and strengthen sustainable development. UNESCO, together with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), has been charged with the role as convener for United Nations entities active in the cross-cutting area of science, assessment, monitoring and early warning. UNESCO has also been expected to assume the lead role of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination High-Level Committee for Programmes working group that is dealing with sectoral adaptation strategies in the field of education, particularly in regards to education for sustainable development. Other areas where UNESCO is expected to make a contribution include energy, disaster risk reduction, health, population and human settlements, oceans and water.

17. Cultural industries, and creative industries as a whole, together with cultural tourism, are an important vector for sustainable development and social cohesion. In this regard, UNESCO has been working to ensure that all cultures and their diverse expressions have access to the development opportunities offered by cultural and creative industries and to international markets, while acknowledging the special needs of some cultures and groups that are particularly vulnerable, with special emphasis on actions favouring cultural production, cultural resource management and capacity-building. New partnerships and new cooperation mechanisms have been promoted, in particular in the framework of the Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity, and through South-South and North-South-South triangular cooperation.

18. UNICEF enhanced capacity to better protect children from violence, exploitation, and abuse through the code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, which was adopted or newly introduced in Albania, Argentina, Canada, Kenya, Mexico, Peru and the Russian Federation. In addition, the number of signatory companies to the code grew to over 600 in some 26 countries. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 889 children working in mines were successfully reintegrated into their communities, and a study on sexual exploitation of children is ongoing.

19. The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, the UNICEF Gender Unit and Education Section, and the Working Group on Girls of the NGO Committee on UNICEF partnered on a side event to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women entitled "Financing gender equality in education", which brought together experts from the partnership for girls' education and focused on the following key issues: (a) financing education, especially in the context of girls and the constraints faced by girls, from both micro and macro perspectives; (b) the challenges of mobilizing additional resources for girls' education, especially given the potentially potent frameworks of the EFA Fast-Track Initiative and sector-wide approaches; and (c) the concept and relevance of gender responsive budgeting in education.

20. In May 2008, WHO, in collaboration with the Violence Prevention Alliance, published a new guidance document that highlights how the health, psychosocial, and economic consequences of violence impede development. It urges development agencies to pay more attention to, and step up their investment in, violence prevention. The guidance document identifies the gaps — and the many strengths — in the current violence-prevention priorities of development agencies and proposes a strengthened agenda for more effective violence prevention.

C. Action to promote respect for all human rights

21. UNESCO has been working to promote a human rights-based approach to education and to improve both formal and non-formal education systems, targeting a wide range of beneficiaries through: (a) enhancement of policy dialogue to assist member States in ensuring the right to education for every child and in promoting education for human rights, democratic citizenship, peace and non-violence and intercultural education, including establishment of frameworks and guidelines; (b) support to national and local capacities for human rights education, through cooperation in the development of projects and programmes at national and subregional levels, including development of teaching and learning materials;

(c) strengthening partnerships with other United Nations entities for the establishment of a common framework for a human rights-based approach to Education for All in the different regions; and (d) advocacy and networking activities.

22. UNESCO provides a platform for cooperation and partnership among actors committed to this process. In close coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations system agencies, the organization plays a major role in implementing the World Programme for Human Rights Education, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2004 (resolution 59/113 A), which provides a common framework for action-based human rights education principles. UNESCO supports member States in their efforts to prepare and implement their respective national implementation strategy by providing technical assistance and learning materials.

23. In addition to promoting the enjoyment of all human rights through education and training, UNESCO has been mobilizing all of its partners to join efforts for the advancement of human rights under the motto of the United Nations system-wide commemoration campaign "Dignity and Justice for All of Us" in the lead up to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It has also supported human rights actions related to advancing academic reflection on the normative content and the obligations of States to respect, protect and fulfil the right to take part in cultural life and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications and to linking this reflection to policymaking through elaborating recommendations on concrete measures to implement these rights. To reinforce human rights capacities at the regional level, UNESCO supported research projects on human rights, which were implemented by the UNESCO Latin American Research Network of Ombudspersons on economic, social and cultural rights and the UNESCO/Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Arab Research-Policy Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The creation of a similar research network uniting a group of Central and Eastern European countries was also supported.

24. UNESCO has also been working in favour of the promotion of the human rights of migrants and their integration in society, and considers that violence against women migrant workers represents an extreme case of human rights violation that must be urgently addressed. The organization recently collaborated with the Eurovision News Exchange Network (ERNO) in South-Eastern Europe for the production of a documentary film on illegal trafficking of girls and women, which investigates the social and cultural contexts of trafficking women in South-Eastern Europe.

25. In response to widespread, persistent violence against the world's children, UNICEF and the Inter-Parliamentary Union developed a handbook for the use of Parliaments and parliamentarians around the globe to aid them in the creation of strategies to protect children, and as an effective follow-up by Parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world to the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. UNICEF supported Community-based Child Protection Networks that are responsible for data collection and provision of child protection services at local levels (also known as child protection councils, boards, safeguard committees or ombudspersons), which focus on the provision of legal and administrative services in the area of child

protection. These networks exist in several Latin American countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru. In 2007, national meetings of Child Protection Networks took place throughout Latin America to share experiences and good practices, and the Ibero-American Network of Ombudsman's Offices for Children was created in the framework of the XII Annual Congress of the Ibero-American Ombudsman Federation, held in Lima.

26. As part of its ongoing Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, WHO, in partnership with the Scottish Executive and the Violence Reduction Unit of Scotland, convened the Third Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention meeting, in July 2007. Over 200 of the world's leading violence prevention researchers, practitioners and advocates gathered to discuss the theme of "scaling-up" interventions shown to be effective in preventing violence, including, for example, home-visitation programmes to reduce child maltreatment, school-based educational programmes to prevent intimate partner violence, and reducing the demand for and availability of firearms to prevent all types of violence. Ministers of Health of the Americas convened in Mexico in March 2008 to review evidence of the devastating impact of violence and injuries on the peoples of the region and plan their response. The meeting resulted in the adoption of a ministerial declaration, through which ministers pledged their commitment to implementing national plans for the prevention of violence and injury; strengthening prevention programmes that address the root causes of violence, enhancing data-collection efforts; and improving services for victims.

27. In the area of human rights, UNRWA has been very active both in the development and production of materials as well as implementing classroom and school-based activities. Teachers are trained on human rights education through teacher's guides, training packages and workshops and awareness enhanced through a website and a human rights magazine.

28. UNFPA supports communities in bringing about "change from within". This involves drawing on the positive cultural values and resources to promote and further human rights. UNFPA organized four training sessions on culturally sensitive programming for United Nations country teams in Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Jordan. This was the first time that United Nations country teams were trained together to link culture, gender and human rights to development programming.

29. UNFPA provided technical assistance to the Governments of Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Rwanda in drafting or revising their laws and policies to improve the lives of women and girls. In Ghana and Zimbabwe, UNFPA assisted national efforts towards the adoption of acts addressing domestic violence. In Indonesia, UNFPA supported the Government and local NGOs in their work in favour of adopting legislation against trafficking of women. UNFPA worked with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to protect the reproductive rights of women and to respond to gender-based violence. In Madagascar, UNFPA played an important role in supporting the Government in the revision of discriminatory laws against women, including those related to marriage. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNFPA supported research which examined gender-based violence and how well reproductive rights are addressed in national-level primary health-care facilities.

30. UNFPA partnered with the School of Public Health of Harvard University to finalize a training module to be used worldwide to improve the Fund's capacity to advocate for human rights based reform, which address many areas of the mandate of UNFPA, including: population and development; sexual and reproductive health; and gender equality. Training on this material for UNFPA staff and partners from Africa was held in Ghana. UNFPA joined with UNICEF to develop a package of training and advocacy materials that will assist the staff of both agencies in linking the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women to improve country-level programming for women and girls. The package covers topics such as early marriage, HIV prevention and AIDS treatment, maternal mortality and the human rights of the adolescent girl.

D. Action to ensure equality between women and men

31. In accordance with the new Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, which designates gender equality as one of two global priorities of the organization, UNESCO has been giving priority to the pursuit of gender equality through action in all of the UNESCO fields of competence by pursuing both gender-specific programming and gender mainstreaming in member States and within the organization. It is committed to supporting women's empowerment, women's rights and gender equality in member States by: (a) mainstreaming gender equality issues throughout the programming cycle at all programme levels; (b) preparing a practical and results-based Priority Gender Equality Action Plan to define the action envisaged by UNESCO in all its fields of competence with concrete results, timelines and budget allocations; (c) building commitment, competence and capacity for gender mainstreaming through dedicated capacity development and resources for these purposes; and in the secretariat: (d) supporting equal career opportunities for staff and appropriate working arrangements to balance work and life; and (e) progressively increasing the representation of women in decision-making levels within the secretariat to reach 50 per cent by 2015. In regards to the Capacity Development and Training Programme in Gender Mainstreaming, four programme sectors have to date received training, as well as a majority of field office staff. Special training and coaching have been provided to the UNESCO Iraq Programme staff based in Amman and staff from the Jordan-Amman office to ensure gender mainstreaming in conflict and post-conflict contexts. A seminar series has also been launched, the UNESCO Forum on Gender Equality, to raise awareness in this field.

32. UNESCO has been promoting women's empowerment, women's rights and gender equality as a priority objective throughout all United Nations joint programmes. It is a lead player in the One Viet Nam Joint Programme on Gender Equality, and promotes gender equality at the country level by integrating gender equality components into all UNESCO country programming documents. The organization participates in 4 of the 13 proposals retained under the Gender Equality Thematic Window of the Spanish Millennium Development Goals Fund. UNESCO collaborates with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and is participating in several task forces focused on: gender dimensions of climate change; tracking investments in gender equality in United Nations agencies; and development of a system-wide gender equality action plan. It

is also collaborating with the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Gender Equality.

33. UNESCO strongly supports the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly, by:

(a) Widely distributing the "Passport to Equality", which contains the articles of the Convention, to member States;

(b) Using sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis to reveal how policies impact differently on women and men, but also inviting women to share their own experience;

(c) Forging and strengthening the political will to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly through two new initiatives (the UNESCO and the Sony Ericsson Women's Tennis Association Tour global partnership to further gender equality and promote women's leadership in all spheres of society (the tennis players Venus Williams (United States of America), Tatiana Golovin (France) and Jie Zheng (China) were appointed "Promoters of Gender Equality" under the partnership, which will result in concrete actions in the field, and the Group of Women Ambassadors to UNESCO for Gender Equality, to promote women's empowerment and gender equality both within the organization and in member States);

(d) Promoting women's participation in scientific research through the UNESCO-L'Oréal Partnership for Women in Science.

34. UNESCO also collaborated with 10 other United Nations entities in the drafting of the Interagency Statement on the elimination of female genital mutilation,[1] which was launched on 27 February 2008 at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

35. The UNFPA strategies to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation is described in a booklet entitled "A holistic approach to the abandonment of female genital mutilation", which draws on a sampling of UNFPA country-level experiences, that show how carefully targeted and planned interventions can reduce gender-based violence. UNFPA collaborated with UNICEF to establish a Trust Fund to accelerate the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting, which aims to reduce the practice by 40 per cent in 16 countries by 2015. A week-long global technical consultation on female genital mutilation was convened with 70 global experts to discuss the development of a global strategy for the elimination of this harmful traditional practice.

36. Through its leadership role in the IANWGE Task Force on Violence Against Women, UNFPA has been contributing to a United Nations-wide strategy to promote gender equality. At the country level, UNFPA worked in several African countries on awareness-raising campaigns on gender-based violence and supported activities in which youth participated in awareness-raising and prevention efforts. In the Central African Republic, the Fund provided technical assistance to national efforts towards strengthening laws to protect women and girls from gender-based violence.

[1] World Health Organization, *Eliminating female genital mutilation: an inter-agency statement, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO* (Geneva, 2008).

E. Action to foster democratic participation

37. UNESCO has been working to instil democratic values in all learners as an integrated component of its work to provide quality education at all educational levels, through both formal and non-formal education. Democratic governance and citizenship participation in developing countries, particularly those in post-conflict situations, has been promoted through the training of journalists and media professionals in non-partisan and independent reporting techniques in conflict areas, supporting the establishment of the necessary conditions for independent media by providing expertise to national authorities seeking to adapt their media legislation to internationally recognized standards of freedom of expression, peace and tolerance, and by assisting media in covering elections. In line with the UNESCO Integrated Strategy on Democracy within the framework of the International Centre for Human Sciences, also known as the Byblos Centre, the organization has been contributing to promoting the human sciences namely through fostering comparative analytical research, organizing international dialogues on the future of democracy and supporting democracy in post-conflict areas.

F. Action to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity

38. UNESCO has been contributing to peace, mutual understanding and social cohesion through the promotion of a dialogue among civilizations and cultures in accordance with the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001 (resolution 56/6). It has been drawing on relevant recommendations of the report of the Alliance of Civilizations and implementing activities that focus on youth, women, civil society, the media, educators and education to avoid discrimination against migrants. To strengthen action in this area, UNESCO has established an intersectoral platform on "Contributing to the dialogue among civilizations and culture and a culture of peace", in order to address this global challenge through an interdisciplinary approach. More information on the specific initiatives of this platform is available in the report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/90 on the "Promotion of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace", submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.

39. UNESCO has been working to advocate the crucial role of culture in international development frameworks, including United Nations system common country programming exercises, and by assisting member States in the formulation, revision and updating of their cultural policies in order to give greater recognition to cultural diversity and dialogue as vehicles of development equity and peace, taking into account the links between cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development, with particular attention to the needs defined by the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including gender equality, while reinforcing institutional, including legislative, capacities and those of policymakers and culture professionals.

40. In order to build sustainable bridges for dialogue, UNESCO has been working with its member States to revise textbooks and curricula to help to ensure the removal of hate messages, distortions, prejudice, and negative bias from textbooks and other educational media; and to ensure basic knowledge and understanding of

the world's main cultures, civilizations and religions. It has been promoting the sharing of common values pertaining to specific scientific disciplines in different cultural settings, through such mechanisms as the From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential initiative, which facilitates multilevel and interdisciplinary dialogues in order to foster peace, cooperation and development related to the management of shared water resources.

41. Efforts have also been undertaken to assist free, independent and pluralistic media by working with professional journalist associations to prevent conflict and promote mutual understanding, notably through the creation of cross-cultural networks, the development of ethical and professional approaches to reporting, as well as training and awareness-raising of media professionals so as to promote an enabling environment for free self-expression.

42. An Africa-wide regional consultation organized by UNFPA, together with Religions for Peace-South Africa, brought together 60 diverse faith-based representatives from 18 countries to discuss enhancing partnerships between the faith-based communities and the United Nations. Participants agreed on a number of concrete recommendations that will be used by UNFPA to enhance its partnerships and outreach to the faith-based communities, particularly in the areas of HIV/AIDS and violence against women.

43. UNFPA has continued to work with indigenous communities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. In Ecuador, UNFPA supported the development of a national statistics commission for indigenous people. In Bolivia, Guatemala and Panama, UNFPA provided technical assistance to indigenous communities and networks for strengthening access to sexual and reproductive health services.

44. UNICEF joined other United Nations entities at the twenty-first World Scout Jamboree held in Hylands Park, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which brought together 40,000 participants from 150 countries to promote a culture of peace and mutual understanding.

45. The Global Network of Religions for Children — a worldwide network of religious organizations and people of faith, who are united by an urgent concern for the well-being of children everywhere — in cooperation with UNICEF and UNESCO, developed a toolkit on ethics education called *Learning to Live Together*. It provides youth leaders and educators worldwide with the tools for an intercultural and interfaith programme, by which children and young people are able to develop a stronger sense of ethics. *Learning to Live Together* was launched in Hiroshima, Japan, on the occasion of the Third Forum of the Network, in May 2008, which brought together over 1,300 religious leaders of different faiths, grass-roots workers, and decision makers from 60 countries to discuss issues that affect children.

46. UNICEF and the Confederation of African Football united in a joint campaign to harness the power of football during the MTN Africa Cup of Nations, Ghana 2008 — Africa's biggest international football competition. The campaign sought to promote quality education for all of Africa's children. Through a series of public service announcements and other means, popular athletes helped to drive home the message that quality education helps children — especially girls — to stay in school and gain the knowledge and confidence they need to pursue their dreams.

G. Action to support participatory communication and the free flow of information

47. UNESCO has been fostering universal access to information by assisting in the formulation of national information policy frameworks, in particular within the framework of the Information for All Programme; supporting the preservation of analog and digital documentary information through the Memory of the World Programme; establishing policy frameworks and international standards to increase information literacy; monitoring developments and fostering the exchange of best practices with regard to the ethical dimensions of the information society, building on the priorities of the Information for All Programme; fostering international partnerships for enhancing universal access to information; and encouraging the development of knowledge societies.

48. The development of free, independent and pluralistic media has been promoted through the UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication; and by building the capacities of media professionals through enhancing the quality of media training institutions; as well as by fostering community access to information to increase opportunities for non-formal education and inclusive participation in development and in management of social transformations. To facilitate community access to information, UNESCO has been supporting community multimedia centres, which combine traditional local media with Internet and digital devices. A total of 130 centres have been introduced in 25 countries. A major regional initiative to take the centres to the national scale completed its first phase in Mali, Mozambique and Senegal with 70 centres.

49. The UNICEF quality education programme in the Maldives ensures an integrated, holistic approach to quality education that includes: (a) infrastructure development to "build back better" the schools that were damaged by the tsunami and to create child-friendly environments for children; (b) capacity-building of teachers and administrators on the importance of child-friendly schools; (c) curriculum revision to incorporate child-friendly approaches; and (d) support to parents to participate in their children's education. Furthermore, the Teaching Resource Centres project has made a virtual learning environment accessible to all teachers of the Maldives and provides them with a consolidated network to communicate and access knowledge.

50. UNICEF has also been supporting observatories on child rights and on child protection that focus on collecting, managing and disseminating data on children, as well as monitoring public policies and expenditure on children. These observatories promote citizen's participation in monitoring child rights and/or public policies targeting children.

H. Action to promote international peace and security

51. In order to promote international peace and security, UNESCO has adopted a regional approach to human security to determine the needs and modalities of action to assist countries in the elaboration of ethical, normative and educational frameworks for the promotion of human security in all regions. In this regard, a number of regional consultations have been undertaken in order to validate the

studies commissioned by UNESCO on the development of these frameworks, which will be the object of a series of publications.

52. UNESCO has also developed an intersectoral platform in order to strengthen its efforts to assist countries in post-conflict and post-disaster situations in all of its programme areas (education, the sciences, culture, communication and information). Assistance has been provided through this platform in the following areas: reconstruction of education systems with the ultimate goal of realizing Education for All; provision of expertise and advice in conflict resolution applied to natural resource management and to the integration of disaster prevention and mitigation efforts, in particular early warning systems in post-conflict and disaster responses; supporting the revitalization of in-country research facilities, policy formulation, implementation and monitoring in the various fields of the natural, social and human sciences; protecting damaged cultural and natural heritage, including emergency consolidation and rehabilitation of damaged cultural heritage sites and institutions as well as the safeguarding of endangered intangible cultural heritage, and promoting the development of institutional and human capacities for the development of sustained free and independent and pluralistic media.

53. UNESCO also works in favour of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. It is promoting women's involvement in peace and security at the institutional level in post-conflict countries through the establishment of women's research and documentation centres (the first centre was inaugurated in Palestine in January 2006, and a similar centre is being established in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to serve the Great Lakes region in Africa, and a third centre has been proposed for Iraq), and it has been cooperating with the Bethlehem Peace Centre, which endeavours to bring together Palestinian and Israeli women, both Christian and Muslim, to engage in intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

54. To promote international peace and security by furthering efforts to engage multi-stakeholders in the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, UNESCO consulted with a range of current and potential partners and organizations with a view to building a broad-based and inclusive approach and identifying possibilities for joint action and partnerships. In this context, UNESCO will co-organize an international conference on the theme "Education for intercultural understanding and dialogue", that will be hosted by the Danish Government in Copenhagen in October 2008, as a follow-up to the multi-stakeholder Rabat Conference on Fostering Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Concrete and Sustainable Initiatives, held in Rabat in 2005.

55. UNESCO has also pledged to promote dialogue among political leaders in countries of South-Eastern Europe as they work to create a common vision of the future that is based on international cooperation. UNESCO assisted with the organization of a series of regional meetings in Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2003), Tirana (2004), Varna, Bulgaria (2005), Opatija, Croatia (2006), Bucharest (June 2007) and Athens (June 2008). In Athens, Heads of States and other leaders from the South-Eastern European region adopted the Athens Declaration, which emphasizes "the role of cultural routes, itineraries and corridors as platforms for regional cooperation and foresees the development of a pool of joint projects on Cultural Water Routes as a means to contribute to stability and peace in the region". This will build upon ongoing work to develop the "cultural

corridors" initiative in South-Eastern Europe, and to promote tangible and intangible heritage in the region as an invaluable asset for development, not only at a cultural level, but also at an economic and social one.

56. UNESCO also participates in, and contributes to, the development of the Secretary-General's counter-terrorism strategy within the framework of the inter-agency counter-terrorism task force. In its resolution 60/288 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Assembly designated a key role for UNESCO in the Plan of Action, which referred to the promotion of dialogue and the prevention of the defamation of religious beliefs as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace, justice and human development through interfaith dialogue among civilizations. As a member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, UNESCO participated in two retreats of the Task Force and is involved in the working groups on: Preventing and Resolving Conflicts; Addressing Radicalization and Extremism; and Countering Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes.

57. The Armed Violence Prevention Programme is a collaborative effort between the United Nations Development Programme and WHO, which seeks to promote effective responses to armed violence through the development of an international policy dialogue founded on a clear understanding of the causes, nature and impacts of armed violence. The first phase of activities was completed during the first half of 2007, which included global normative work as well as country work in Brazil and El Salvador.

III. Role of civil society

58. UNESCO has been encouraging civil society to strengthen its efforts for promoting a culture of peace through the Prize for Peace Education, which was awarded this year to the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (South Africa) "for its outstanding efforts in building sustainable reconciliation through education and in addressing systemic injustice in Africa". The award ceremony will be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, on 18 September 2008, within the framework of the celebrations of the International Day of Peace. A project to help strengthen a network of active NGOs in conflict prevention and resolution and peace-building in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa was also launched in May 2008.

59. In regards to promoting a culture of peace with youth, UNESCO assisted with the youth sessions that were organized during the first Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations (Madrid, January 2008), and is developing an online portal with resources for young people on the dialogue among civilizations. Five regional youth forums were also organized or co-organized in 2006-2007 on issues related to peace-building and in July 2007, a conference on intercultural, peace and civic education was organized in Wroclaw, Poland, which brought together youth trainers, workers and activists from 28 countries to discuss how to use intercultural, civic and peace education as a tool to create positive change.

60. The UNESCO network of National Commissions has been facilitating the contact and promoting interface between member States and the intellectual and professional communities in each country in order to forge alliances as well as to extend the outreach of UNESCO in each member State, and has significantly contributed to the pursuit of the organization's objectives and the conceptualization,

implementation and delivery of its programmes at the regional, subregional and national levels.

61. UN-Habitat and UNICEF held a peace meeting at United Nations headquarters in Nairobi, in February 2008, to persuade young Kenyans to be ambassadors for peace in their troubled country. Some 700 young people from various parts of Nairobi came together to discuss ways of influencing their peers to avoid violent acts and be ambassadors for peace. UN-Habitat was also one of the major promoters of the National Youth Violence Prevention Week, an activity of the Safer Cities Kenya Project that is a joint collaboration of the Government of Kenya with the United Nations under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Kenya.

62. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNFPA has been involved in establishing a first-of-its-kind civil society network which advocates for gender equality and reproductive health for women and young people. In compliance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), UNFPA together with its national partners continued to work on creating community-based initiatives that enable Palestinian women to protect themselves from violence, to access services that deal with these issues, and to build the institutional capacity of local NGOs. A United Nations thematic group on youth was also established under UNFPA leadership, with the aim of strengthening coordination and collaboration among various United Nations entities working for and with Palestinian youth.

63. UNFPA, in cooperation with other United Nations entities and through projects implemented with local NGOs, trained female volunteers and staff on communicating messages related to mitigation of violence against women, and on the provision of psychosocial services, particularly for young women. A coalition of 16 women NGOs to combat violence against women in Gaza was launched, and a network of 27 NGOs was formed to operationalize Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). UNFPA, in partnership with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, also held a national conference on combating gender-based violence.

IV. Communication and networking arrangements

64. In order to raise awareness about the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), UNESCO distributed the Programme of Action on the Culture of Peace during the third International Salon for Peace Initiatives held in Paris and attended by some 13,000 visitors. Information on contributions to the Decade was also made available through the culture of peace website that was established during the International Year for the Culture of Peace (2000).

V. Conclusions and recommendations

65. **United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes are encouraged to continue focusing their programmes on the various dimensions of the culture of peace, especially at the country level.**

66. **Member States for their part are encouraged to:**

(a) **Increase educational efforts to remove hate messages, distortions, prejudice, and negative bias from textbooks and other educational media, and ensure the basic knowledge and understanding of the world's main cultures, civilizations and religions;**

(b) **Update and revise education and cultural policies to reflect a human rights-based approach, cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development;**

(c) **Revise national laws and policies that are discriminatory against women, and adopt legislation that addresses domestic violence, the trafficking of women and girls and gender-based violence;**

(d) **Eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation, including through legal and policy reforms, national capacity-building and working at the community level;**

(e) **Ensure that the gender dimension is integrated into all national development plans;**

(f) **Expand access to information and communications technologies to bring the benefits of all levels and means of education to girls and women, the excluded, the poor, the marginalized and those with special needs.**